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## ***TOWNSENDIA LEPTOTES*** **SLENDER TOWNSENDIA**

Slender Townsendia is a low perennial that grows up to about 3 cm high and usually arises from a branched rootstock. Its leaves are green, narrow, linear to lance shaped, 0.6-4 cm long by 1-3 mm wide, and are sparsely covered by straight, stiff, appressed hairs. The flowers are borne in stemless or short-stemmed flower heads. The involucre consists of 4-7 overlapping series of narrow, pointed bracts. The strap-shaped corollas of the ray flowers are white, cream, pink, violet, or blue and are 6-10 mm long and 1-2 mm wide. The disk flowers have shorter, yellow, tubular corollas. Both ray and disk corollas are encircled by a pappus of slender bristles. The achenes are covered with hairs that are barbed at their tips.

Distinguished from other stemless species of TOWNSENDIA by its green, only sparsely hairy leaves with narrow, pointed involucre bracts.